THE

WEEKLY MAGAZINE,

OR

EDINBURGH AMUSEMENT.

CONTAINING

The ESSENCE of all the MAGAZINES, REVIEWS, NEWSPAPERS, *&c.* publiſhed in GREAT BRITAIN: Alſo EXTRACTS from every new Work of Merit, whether political, literary, ſerious or comical; being a Regiſter of the Writings and Tranſactions of the Times.

VOLUME I.

Floriferis ut apes in ſaltibus omnia libant,
Omnia nos.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by and for WAL. RUDDIMAN, Jun.
Foreſter's Wynd, Lawn-market.

M, DCC, LXVIII.

THE

WEEKLY MAGAZINE,

OR

EDINBURGH AMUSEMENT.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND

VOLUME I.

EDINBURGH:

Printed by and for W. A. GUTHRIE and T. TRAIL.

M, DCC, LXXVIII.

THE PREFACE.

THE Publiſher, with pleaſure, embraces this opportunity of rendering his acknowledgements to the Public, for the favourable reception this undertaking has met with from its commencement:——A reception he has attempted to merit; but in which he has been frequently obſtructed by the circumſtances of the times.

Whilſt a nation enjoys a ſtate of univerſal tranquility, few incidents can occur of conſequence enough to attract, far leſs to engroſs, the general attention. The commotions that have lately happened in different quarters of the globe (thoſe in the Britiſh colonies excepted), have been too remote to affect, and to inconſiderable to intereſt, the curioſity of a judicious reader.—Hence that ſterility in the News papers, and that languor and inſipidity in the commou run of late publications; and hence that ſtagnation in the ſources from whence the publiſher of a periodical paper profeſſedly derives his ſupplies.

To pleaſe every claſs of readers would prove an impotent attempt; to pleaſe the *gros* of them has been the ſole aim of the Publiſher: The taſtes and diſpoſitions of mankind are ſo various, that no variety can hit them all: The moſt then that can be done, is to give them a chance. With this view he has endeavoured at ſuch a ſelection of materials as bid faireſt for that end. Some readers, indeed, there are, who are diſguſted they know not why: ſuch he will ever be little ſolicitous to pleaſe: Yet he flatters himſelf there are few ſtomachs ſo ſqueamiſh, but may reliſh one or other of the diſhes in the group here preſented.

In the miſcellaneous part of this collection, beſides articles of mere amuſement, there are many on ſubjects of general utility, in the peruſal of which, not only the Phyſician, the Virtuoſo and Antiquariau, but the Country Gentleman, the Merchant, the Mechanic, the Farmer, will find their account. Of the latter caſt, every ſenſible piece that can fall within the vortex of his reſearches ſhall be adopted, and every hint that tends to the improvement of agriculture, manufactures, or commerce, will be moſt acceptable.

The poetical department is calculated for the tribe of juvenile readers, whoſe humours muſt be gratified as well as thoſe of more ſage diſpoſitions. As the amuſements of fancy and fiction are congenial to that ſeaſon of life, to prompt the efforts of riſing genius, and rouſe the latent ſeeds of youthful imagination, can neither be deemed a frivolous nor illaudable

dable attempt; accordingly in every ſimilar publication, little ſallies of wit and humour have always obtained a place. In this and the preceeding volume, are to be found a variety of detached pieces, models not only for imitation, but ſuch as would not diſhonour their promotion at the head of a *ſelect collection of poems*.

With reſpect to another capital branch, the hiſtorical article, the Publiſher has paid particular attention to it, inſomuch that, on that account, he has been often obliged to ſuperſede the Review, which, however, he will reſume as often as opportunity offers. The weekly occurrences are here claſſed under the names of the ſeveral kingdoms or countries to which they relate, and to which the reader may have recourſe for any article of importance, at any period, without being compelled to wade through an undigeſted maſs of miſcellaneous intelligence.—As moſt readers are now become politicians, an account of the public tranſactions is moſt anxiouſly ſought after, and therefore moſt univerſally peruſed. From the ſame motive, ſome are amuſed even with *hearſay* and *report*; and thus, in compliance with this humour, we are obliged to inſert many articles which we can father upon no more credible vouchers.

He has now run over the principal branches that conſtitute this undertaking, in all of which he has endeavoured to act up to his plan. That there are many defects, he muſt readily acknowledge; but theſe are in a great meaſure owing to the circumſtances of the times.——He muſt however obſerve, (and a very diſagreeable obſervation it is), that there is now a large and more intereſting field opening. The near proſpect of a war on the continent, will, no doubt, attract univerſal attention, and the more ſo, that it is very uncertain how far Great Britain may be involved in it. The flames now kindling may embroil the half of Europe before they are extinguiſhed. In that event, every poſt will be look'd for with anxiety, and the intelligence he brings devoured with greedineſs. Should that happen, the Publiſher will make it his buſineſs to record every capital operation, and give a faithful relation of every intereſting occurrence.

Upon the whole, he will make it his ſtudy to gratify his readers in every branch of his undertaking, and ſpare no pains to render this MAGAZINE a repoſitory of uſeful knowledge, a vehicle of innocent amuſement, and an impartial chronicle of the times.

THE

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Paſſed the Sound, 128.

Erratum, In the Autumn Circuits, p. 192. *for* September 1. *read* 15. *for* Septem. 16. *read* 23.

Directions for the Binder.

Cut off the Covers, and place the General Title and Inſcription immediately before the Contents.

TO

TO

SIR LAWRENCE DUNDAS, BART.

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

FOR THE CITY OF EDINBURGH,

THIS PERIODICAL WORK,

Calculated

FOR THE INSTRUCTION AND AMUSEMENT

OF THE PUBLIC,

Is humbly INSCRIBED by

His moſt obedient

And

Moſt devoted Servant

WAL. RUDDIMAN, JUN.

TO

TO

SIR LAWRENCE DUNDAS, BART.

MEMBER of PARLIAMENT for the City of EDINBURGH.

Di tibi divitias dederint, artemque fruendi. HOR.

WHILST corrupt Boroughs venal ends purſue,
Their genuine int'reſt ever out of view.
Whilſt av'rice, leagu'd with faction, bears command,
And public virtue is exil'd the land.
Whilſt ſpecious liberty, that imp of pow'r,
Fires the pretended patriot of an hour:
Edina's Rulers form a nobler plan,
Far nobler motives guide them to the MAN.
Merit alone inſpires their happy choice,
And *detur Digniori* is the voice.
Lo! native Worth points out her fav'rite Son,
His Claim enroll'd by Virtues all his own;
Such meaſures grandeur to EDINA brings,
Th' Imperial Seat of Caledonian Kings!
Where Senates, 'erſt like Roman, held debate,
And more than Roman in their fame and fate.
Hail generous Man! by Providence aſſign'd
To diſtribute its favours to mankind;
On whom it ſmil'd, that SCOTIA too might ſmile,
(Neglected corner of a glorious Iſle!)
Whoſe Bounty thro' the land diffuſive flies,
And re-aſcends like incence to the ſkies;
As genial ſhow'rs, to earth in mercy given,
Deſcend, and riſe again in dew to Heav'n,
Such, in a thouſand inſtances expreſt,
The Lame, the Orphan, and the Beggar bleſt.
Nor are his gifts to private views confin'd,
But riſe to objects of ſublimer kind.
Whilſt ALMA MATER lies o'erwhelm'd with ruſt,
Immur'd in ruins, and deform'd with duſt;
Whilſt all her Sons her crumbling portals mourn,
And anxious wait her reſcue from the urn;
Soon ſhall his heart his healing hand employ,
Bid Learning ſmile, and Science leap for joy.
At his approach, ſee haggard Faction fled,
See old EDINA rear her rev'rend head;
Half pleas'd behold, yet half with jealous eyes,
A younger, fairer, darling Siſter riſe,
To deck whoſe charms the kindred arts conſpire,
Palladio's graces, and Vitruvius' fire; Where

Where ſymmetry with juſt proportion ſhines,
And grandeur mixt with elegance combines.
Still more illuſtrious ſcenes invite our view,
For ages talk'd of, but in proſpect new.
Long had our active Sires their ſails unfurl'd,
To ope a paſſage to the weſtern world.
Long had they brav'd, but often brav'd in vain,
The ſtorms and whirlpools of the northern main;
Their commerce check'd, their ſchemes of traffick loſt,
Crampt and encumber'd by a length of coaſt,
Where in ſucceſſion growing dangers greet,
And, ſhould you paſs Charybdis, Scylla meet.
To ſhun the rock and caprice of the breeze,
The project bold to join the kindred ſeas!
The latent channels of the deep explore,
And ſcoop a paſſage to the Indian ſhore:
To drain the lake, direct the ſpring to flow,
And teach the ſtream a backward courſe to go;
Divide the mountain, bid the riv'let ceaſe,
The rock to level, and the vale to raiſe,
The pow'rs of art and nature to command,
And roll obedient rivers thro' the land*.
Thus ſhall the fam'd canal its waves extend,
Firſt lave the fields, then with the ocean blend.
Hence life to trade, and to the labourer health,
Perennial ſource of induſtry and wealth;
Where buſy hands, and loaded barks ſhall ply,
Thick as the inſects of a ſummer ſky.
For whom reſerv'd to prop this mighty plan?
The Muſe replies, Sir LAWRENCE is the Man;
Whoſe liberal ſoul ſuch godlike bleſſings brings;
Theſe are imperial works, and worthy kings*!
Proceed, great Man! each public plan to try,
Till old EDINA with AUGUSTA vie.
May time mature, and wiſdom guide your ſchemes,
Till FORTH poſſeſs a traffic like the THAMES.
Long, for ſuch noble purpoſes deſign'd,
May heav'n preſerve this friend of human kind:
Long, to his wiſh, its choiceſt gifts impart,
With all that liberality of heart;
And when at laſt the glaſs of fate is run,
May the Son finiſh what the Sire begun.
Still from that ſtem may branches bloom around,
And flouriſh with paternal virtues crown'd;
By worthy deeds ennobl'd may they ſhine,
And Patriots ſtill deſcend thro' all the line.

WAL. RUDDIMAN, Jun.

* Theſe from POPE.

TO THE

READERS

OF THE

WEEKLY MAGAZINE.

Reſurgo.

I WHO ere while, by emulation led,
Fondly purſu'd the magazining trade;
Explor'd the paths to literary fame,
Gave genius praiſe, and merit all its claim;
Survey'd the ſcenes of war with candid zeal,
And mark'd each hero as he fought or fell;
Or oft, with charms of pow'rful fancy ſmit,
Travers'd the fields of poetry and wit;
Again embark, anew invoke the gale,
Reſume the helm, and ſpread the willing ſail:
Again review the progreſs of the mind,
The actions, paſſions, humours of mankind:
In ſhort excurſions range around the globe,
And viſit nature in her native robe:
Exhibite art in all her various powers,
And make the myſteries of ſcience yours.
Now, a recluſe, the ſtate of learning ſcan,
Now catch invention poring o'er her plan.
Now, diſtant regions ſtudious to explore,
Waft modes and manners from a foreign ſhore.
In page hiſtoric ponder Europe's fate,
And ſeem to weigh the balance of the ſtate;
Yet ſtill avoid in party rage to rake,
Let Faction ſleep, but bid the Patriot wake.

To ſofter ſcenes ſometimes conduct your view,
And ſtrow with flowers the paths you ſhall purſue;
In jovial mood a gleam of mirth diffuſe,
And ſport with wit, and triffle with the Muſe.
A well couch'd fable, or a moving tale,
Full often o'er a feeling heart prevail.

Nor monſters, nor of miracles I boaſt,
Nor giants from the Patagonian coaſt.
My ſole ambition to convey with eaſe
A taſte for pleaſure, with a ſenſe to pleaſe;

Yet

Import examples fit for age or youth;
The commerce candour, and the traffick truth.

Yet ſhould I ſometimes plow the barren main,
And like the Dolphin beat the ſeas in vain;
Or, like old Argo in her voyage to Greece,
Return ſucceſsful with the golden fleece:
My baffled efforts your indulgence claim;
For 'tis your province to commend or blame.
If in my cauſe your favour ſhall engage,
And with freſh vigour animate the page;
Then ſhall thoſe ſheets o'er envy's ſelf prevail;
Your hearts the compaſs, and your ſmiles the gale.

Then, ſhould ſome corſair critic come abroad,
And ſtrive to board me with his iron rod,
Aided by you, I'll ſtand on my defence,
Elude his rage, or check his inſolence.
My plan the rule that regulates the ball,
Each for himſelf, and Providence for all.

W. R. Jun.

THE